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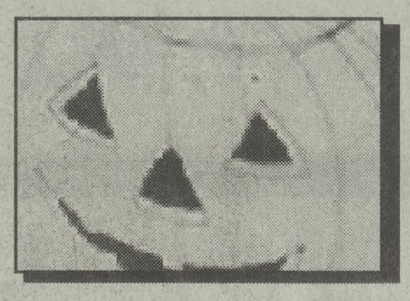
VALLEY Star

Volume 50, Issue 21 | LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE | Thursday, October 30, 1997

SPORTS



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ENTERTAINMENT

PAGE 8

CAMPUS SCENE

MONARCH HALL

❖The Semi-annual Dean Reception will be held Nov, 5 at 2 p.m.

MUSIC RECITAL HALL

❖Campus Concert Series presents New American String Quartet performing Oct, 30, at 11 a.m.

CAMPUS CENTER

❖Phi Theta Kappa's First Annual Family Fun Festival will be held Oct. 31, 6 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Admission is $2 for adults and $.50 for children and senior citizens.

MONARCH STADIUM

❖Valley Monarchs vs Los Angeles Harbor, Nov. 1, 7 p.m.

CAFETERIA CONFERENCE ROOM

❖Lecture: "The First Valley School" Nov. 3, at 3 p.m.

MATH SCIENCE BUILDING

❖Earth Science Lecture Series presents "The Northern Mojave Desert Little Sahara" Nov. 4, at noon.

MUSIC ROOM 112

❖LAVC Jazz Band will perform Nov. 6, at 11 a.m.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

❖Spring '98 registration postcards will be mailed October 25, to notify continuing students of their telephone registration appoints for Spring '98. Telephone appointments begin Nov. 19, and will continue through Jan. 8, 1998. If you call at your appointment time you will have the best selection of classes. Valley College will not be offering a Guarantee Registration day for the Spring'98 semester. Holds: All students are advised to pay enrollment fees, clear up library holds and other financial responsibilites before registration begins. Those students will be delayed from registering for Spring '98 classes until the holds are clrared. If in doubt, go to the Admissions Office West Counter for assistance. For any question regarding Spring '98 registration contact: Billy Reed. Associate Dean.

Kathy Lustig/Valley Star

Sherman Oaks resident Anthony Wincosck displays the Halloween spirit by decorating his yard.

Crime Wave Hits Valley

By REBEKAH FOWLER
STAR REPORTER

Seven cars have been stolen from Valley College parking lots since the beginning of this semester. Among the nine colleges in the district Valley ranks second on the list for the most auto thefts this semester.

Three cars have been stolen from the campus within the past two weeks, police said.

"There is an increase in car thefts since the high school students started back to school in September," Officer Michael Habicht said.

Lot B is currently the most targeted lot, with two cars stolen in two days last week. Lots D and G have both had two cars stolen since September. Grant High School students are suspected of committing the burglaries police said.

Police said these are reasons Grant students are suspected: Cars are stolen in the same time frame but in different lots; The lots which are currently being hit can be easily accessed by Grant students; Twice cars were stolen immediately after police had patrolled the lot; Grant High is the perfect vantage point form which to observe lots B, D, and G. The three lots most frequently targeted.

The officers can only speculate about the identity of the car thieves. Their suspicions are based on statistics and past problems with Grant students.

"Just because Grant is located near Valley College, and the months in which they are in session the thefts increase are not enough to suspect Grant students," said Joseph Walker, Assistant Principal at Grant High School.

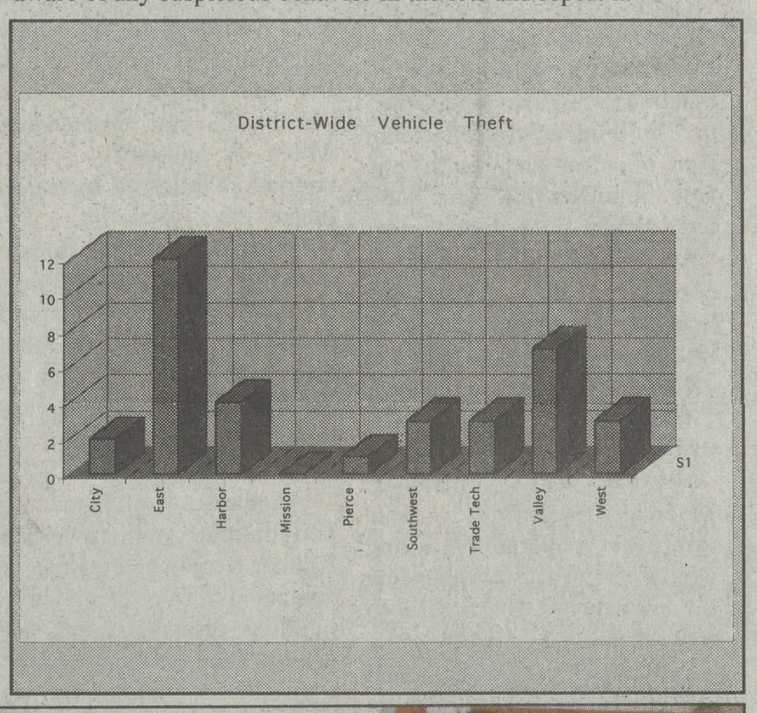
Walker said that it is a loose connection and not enough evidence to point blame or rule out Grant students as suspects.

According to the statistics provided by the campus police, during the months in which Grant is in session the number of burglaries, stolen cars and petty thefts increase.

"We have not had any cars stolen from Grant since school started in August." Walker said. "We are aware of students trespassing on the college campus and have taken measures to catch them. However this does not mean they are the ones stealing the cars."

The burglaries have all taken place during the day and no suspects have been caught. Police said. If there are any witnesses none have come forth.

None of the stolen cars have been recovered. Students should be aware of any suspicious behavior in the lots and report it.



Enrollment Fees Cut

By JULIO CORTEZ
STAR REPORTER

Governor Pete Wilson signed the College Affordability Act of 1997 (AB 1318), Oct. 10, which will reduce students unit fees by $1.

Beginning in the fall semester of 1998, students will pay $12 instead of $13 per unit.

"It's stopping the trend of raising fees," said Patrick McCallum, executive director for the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges. "We're finally reversing the rapid fee increases of the past decade."

"Pete Wilson is always raising everything," Valley College student, Lamont Kinard, said. Fees should be lower than that because this is a Junior College."

FACCC officials say that this is the most successful year for them and community colleges since the reform bill AB 1725 was made law.

The bad news is a $1 billion tax cut that will be fully implemented in 1999-2000. This will cost community colleges $50 million to $60 million from future revenues

Greg Snorodinesky, Valley College student taking 12 units, said that he doesn't mind paying the current fee just as long as the school benefits.

Water Pipe Bursts

■ **Construction:** A service pipe breaks causing minimal damage.

By REBEKAH FOWLER
STAR REPORTER

A rotted water pipe burst Monday cutting off the water supply to the Campus Police Bungalow.

The bungalow was without water Monday and most of Tuesday a police spokeswoman said.

"We don't have water in here, and we have to go over to the building next door to use the bathroom or get water." said Police dispatcher Sharon. "It is an inconvenience."

The broken pipe spewed water from the ground for over an hour while an emergency crew worked feverishly to cut off the water supply.

"We are fortunate that its not a major service pipe." said Facilities Manager Dave Ogne. "The broken pipe only affected the police bungalow."

Emergency workers labored to stop the water flow and fix the busted pipe. In the process they had to cut off the water supply. The water supply was restored around 3 p.m. Tuesday.

Ogne said the muddy conditions, caused by burst pipe slowed the progress of the workers.

Although it was a minor service pipe which busted, Ogne said the age of the pipe is what created the problem.

"We are lucky, the pipes are very old, this was just a warning." Ogne said.

Carola Danielsson/Valley Star

Office Frank Dallas speaks to a construction worker about the loss of water to the police bungalow.

Technology:

Blowing Up or Blowing Out?

By Steve Beland
STAR REPORTER

Phoning home in 1972 meant calling from the office, a friend's house or a pay phone because there were no other options. In most cases, you had to use a rotary-dial telephone because push-button telephones weren't available everywhere. You also had to know the telephone number because speed-dialing didn't exist.

Flash forward to 1997.

Let's say you're hiking in the Santa Monica mountains and you want to call your father and see how he's doing. All you have to do is take your cellular phone out of your backpack, turn it on and punch in the speed-dial code for your dad's number, and within seconds you can listen to him reminisce about "the good ol' days."

Technological advances within the last 25 years have rendered once-impossible tasks mundane. Conveniences our parents could only dream of are part of our everyday lives. Unfortunately, sometimes it's possible to have too many choices and too much information. Are 120 television channels really necessary?

Advances in the telephone industry have revolutionized the way we communicate with each other. Cellular telephones and beepers have made it conceivable for a person to be reached 24 hours a day, regardless of location. In fact, many parents give their children beepers as a way of monitoring their whereabouts.

Many transactions, such as buying stocks or transferring bank balances, can now be conducted by phone. Such services are useful if you don't want to visit the bank to check your balance, but exasperating if you're trying to contact a customer service representative. Requesting a live operator is usually the last available option when calling a company's 800 number.

Fax machines and personal computers have made it possible to send documents over telephone lines with a simple mouse-click. Executives compose and fax documents from laptop computers while flying to meetings, eliminating the need for messenger services and secretaries.

As we approach the millennium, e-mail has become a faster and cheaper alternative to handwritten letters sent by "snail mail." You don't have to use an envelope or pay for a stamp and you're guaranteed instant delivery, regardless of the weather.

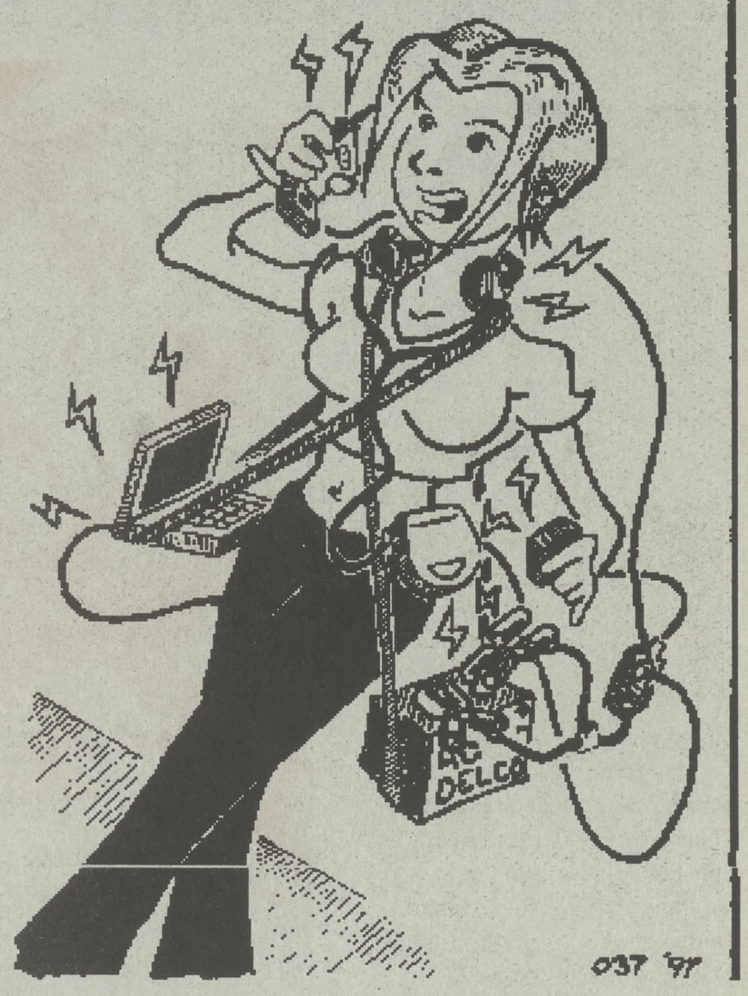
Technology has even changed the way we watch television. Does anyone else remember having to walk over to the television set with a pair of pliers to turn the channel because the knob had fallen off after someone in the household had turned it too fast for too long? The advent of the remote control solved that dilemma. Now viewers change channels from the comfort of sofas or rocking chairs.

Of course, now there is the problem of the missing remote control, which has been solved by the invention of the remote control locator. This device prompts the remote control to emit a beeping noise so the distraught viewer may be able to find it. Ironically, the viewer must first walk over to the television set and turn it on before the locator will work.

Videocassette recorders allow viewers to watch recorded programs at their leisure. It's no longer necessary to rush home to watch "The Simpsons." The only innovation yet to be discovered is how to properly set the VCR to record.

Twenty-five years ago, if you wanted to talk to your friend, you walked over to their house. Today, you leave a message on their voice mail, beep them, call them on their car phone, fax them or e-mail them. Whatever happened to talking with the neighbor over the fence?

Will the next 25 years bring technological advances we couldn't possibly dream of today? Maybe. Will they improve our lives or make them more difficult? Only time will tell.



Pyruvate, A Natural Fat Disolving Method

By BEN ALTER
STAR REPORTER

Scientists at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center have discovered a natural weapon in the war against fat called Pyruvate.

According to literature provided by MED-PRO Industries, the manufacturer of Pyruvate, Pyruvate is made up of a combination of pyruvic acid, a natural by-product of the metabolism of sugar and starch, and any one of the following; sodium, calcium, potassium or magnesium. MED-PRO Industries Manufactures Pyruvate. Scientists have been doing clinical research on Pyruvate and itís effects for over 27 years.

According to the human studies done by the scientists at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pyruvate improves endurance during exercise by primarily enhancing the movement of glucose to muscle cells.

Pyruvate enhances weight and fat loss by increasing metabolism, and utilizing fat according to a report released by Dr. Ronald T. Stanko, the scientist in charge of the research.

Another way Pyruvate helps in the fight against fat is with the "Yo-Yo" syndrome, according to an article written in the December 1996 issue of Muscle and Fitness Magazine. The "Yo-Yo" syndrome is the gaining and losing of weight and fat. Pyruvate helps by reducing weight and fat replacement, which is caused by calorie restriction followed by calorie intake.

According to a report released by MED-PRO, Olympic gold-medal gymnast Shannon Miller's coach and of the Green Bay Packers the strength and conditioning coach have used Pyruvate, even though it is new to the market.

Another user of Pyruvate is bodybuilder and powerlifter Kramer Bergman. Bergman has competed in five national bodybuilding meets and has been named Mr. Alabama and Mr. Coastal USA. Kramer also won the 1996 USA Dead Lift Championship.

According to documents provided by MED-PRO, before Kramerís use of Pyruvate, his body fat was calculated at 8.39 percent. After eight days of use, it decreased to 7.77 percent. He also gained two pounds of muscle and lost one pound of fat in his target areas.

Some other facts about Pyruvate that have been provided by MED-PRO are that it doesnít have any side effects, it decreases cholesterol in a high fat diet.

"Because Pyruvate is backed by solid science, I feel comfortable in highly recommending it to bodybuilders as well as individuals who want to lose fat," said Reeve Shabtay, owner of Ozone Nutrition Systems, a Pyruvate distributor. "I predict this stuff will be a more potent "fat burner" than chromium picolinate."

For more information on Pyruvate contact Reeve Shabtay at (888)926-2966.

Student Pleads Not Guilty in Sex Crimes Arraignment

By LINDA E. THOMAS
STAR REPORTER

A Valley College student charged with campus sex crimes does not remember what happened about the alleged violations, he said before his arraignment Tuesday.

Student David A. Quinn pled not guilty to two counts of sexual battery, one count of simple battery and two counts of lewd conduct at his arraignment in Division 101 of the Los Angeles Municipal Court in Van Nuys.

Quinn was detained by campus police Sept. 16 after victim reports of alleged sexual assault and lewd behavior. Victims identified Quinn, but declined arrest and he was released that day after immediate suspension from Valley College, campus police Officer Michael Habicht said. Quinn was subsequently charged with the five misdemeanor criminal counts.

ìI donít really remember the incident,î Quinn said in an interview minutes before his arraignment. ìI donít remember what happened.î

A very soft spoken Quinn said that he has been having problems with depression.

ìIíve been seeing a psychiatrist once a week since the incident,î Quinn said. ìIíve been having problems since about the time I graduated from high school.î

Quinn graduated as valedictorian of his 1994 class at James Monroe High School in North Hills, he said. After high school, he went to Columbia University in New York City where he started taking drugs there, he said.

ìThe last time I did drugs was last December,î Quinn said. ìI did LSD and cocaine when I was in New York at Columbia.î

Habicht said that he thought that Quinn exhibited signs of drug use or mental illness when he was detained by college police. Quinnís father told police that Quinn had used LSD in the past and may have been having a reaction, Habicht said.

Quinn exhibited continuous facial ticks during his court appearance.

Before the arraignment, Quinn chose to represent himself without an attorney. Quinn was told by a court bailiff that should he plea guilty, he would be sentenced to serve jail time and required to register as a sex offender.

ìHe seemed mentally ill when I spoke with him,î Deputy Sheriff Jonn Eidem said. ìSo I had him talk to a public defender.î

Quinn was referred to a public defender who pled not guilty on his behalf.

Judge Karen Nudell ordered Quinn to stay 100 yards away from the Valley College campus. Nudell ordered Quinn to appear at his trial Dec. 1 and released him on his own recognizance.

Student Make Valley Safe

By NANCY BARAHONA
STAR REPORTER

The Student Patrol is accepting applications for students interested in working for them.

The student patrol is a group of students that work for the campus police.

Students will be trained in how to write tickets and observe how to handle people loitering on campus. Their job would be to patrol the parking lots, give out citations to students without parking permits or other parking violation.

"They also try to prevent car theft and vandalism and to maintain a presence if anyone needs help," said student patrol member Jessie Dominguez.

Students would begin in January and work 20 hours per week. The job is open to men and women. The only qualification needed is to be enrolled in 12 units.

"It's a good job, they fit your work schedule around your class schedule," said Dominguez.

"It puts a sense of security on campus. We are getting rid of break-ins and vandalism and we are maintaining the school from the occasional fights,î said student patrol member John Torrosian.

Students interested in working for the Student Patrol can get an application from the Campus Police in Bungalow 59 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"Crime has been down, not as many cars have been stolen this semester," said Dominguez. "The cars that are getting stolen are mostly of careless people."

Dominguez recommends students do the following to prevent from their cars getting stolen: before exiting their car, lock all doors and make sure the windows are fully rolled up; if they own a club make sure it is on because this makes it more time consuming to steal the car; and look around and make sure there is no one watching or anyone that looks suspicious. If for any reason students feel the need to call the campus police, they may do so by pressing #30 from any pay phone on campus or calling at extension 409.

The Truth Hurts:

Just When You Thought itWas Safe to Sign On

By DEEANNE McCLAIN
STAR REPORTER

Janet L., clad in her pajamas, sat at her computer reading a message from her male cyber friend of two months.

"It would be great to finally meet," the message read. "I feel like we would make a great couple honey. Don't you?"

Janet smiled and sighed in anticipation. "Sure," she typed. "Where should we meet?"

Last summer, Valley College student Janet L. met someone who seemed like a nice guy in a chat room on the Internet. Janet asked that her last name not be used.

During the next two months the couple formed a cyber relationship and they agreed to meet at a Northridge restaurant for their first official date.

It was a warm evening and the moon was low in the sky. As Janet got out of her car in the restaurant parking lot, a pair of hands came out of the darkness.

Janet's darkly dressed cyber friend pushed her back into the car and raped her on that warm summer evening, she said.

He identified himself by the things he whispered into her ear during the attack, she said.

How could something like this happen? Well, I'll tell you how.

In the fun of the Internet and in the excitement of the ability to meet and get to know people all over the world, we sometimes forget that these people may not be who they say they are.

Stories like this happen everyday. There was the young girl who left the state to meet some guy she met on the Internet and it was reported later that she was molested. There was the 11-year-old boy who killed himself because of a girl who jilted him on the Internet.

We never think though, that it could happen to us.

"I could tell if they were a weirdo," we think.

But the truth is, if we want to believe what the person on the other end of the chat room is saying to us, we will.

We are letting this new technology of ours excite us into such a state that we forget to use our self-defense skills.

Because it appears that most of the people in chat rooms are honest and friendly, we mistakenly assume that everyone is. Well, they're not.

Some of these seemingly nice people either want to get you or your children in a compromising position and hurt you.

"ImRebelene" is a married woman who likes to chat a lot. She feels comfortable being on the Internet.

Unbeknownst to her, some guy, who must have watched her conversations, begins to follow her and verbally harass her all over the Internet. Finally he gets her address and phone number.

He calls her and tells her he wants to do some unpleasant things to her.

She and her husband figure it is just some kook.

One day, ImRebelene received a package in the mail. The stranger had sent her his semen in a baggie.

ImRebelene and her husband took action and were able to get the stranger apprehended and filed a restraining order against him.

"He was fired from his job for calling me and harassing me on the Internet from there." ImRebelene said.

What is with some people? Sick puppies huh?

What we have to realize is that even the Internet does not protect us from people who want to hurt us.

Just because you think they can't find you doesn't mean you should feel safe. Apparently, some people can find us if they want to badly enough.

E-mail is also not entirely safe. One shouldn't write something that they don't want seen.

Just because an E-mail is deleted on your end doesn't mean another copy doesn't exist.

Please be careful on the Internet, or what happened to ImRebelene and Janet could happen to you.

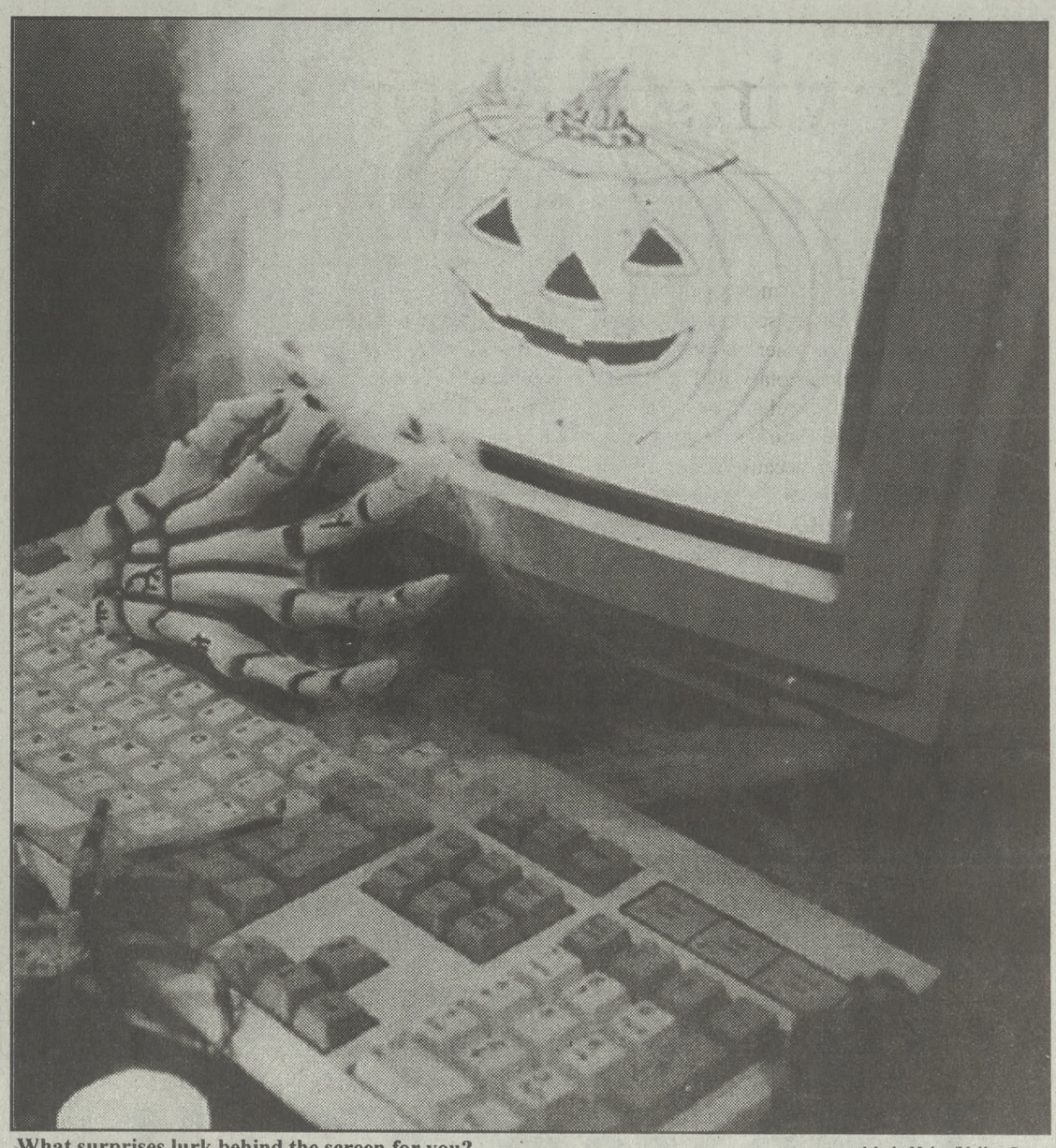
Wondering what ever happened to Janet? Well, she didn't call the authorities.

"I was so embarrassed. I felt like what happened to me was my fault. I was so stupid," Janet said.

Janet wasn't stupid. She was trusting. She believed in a fellow human being.

She thought what she saw was what she would get. It's a shame to have to withdraw that trust, but as a nation, until there are no more mean people who want to hurt others, we obviously have to.

❖Next Week: Why some women don't want to be known as a feminist.



What surprises lurk behind the screen for you? Marla Haloc/Valley Star

Halloween Hints From Robin's Crypt

BY ROBIN FEJES
STAR REPORTER

Peter, Peter, pumpkin eater or Butcher, Baker, Pumpkin pie maker, which ever of the two you may be, here are some Halloween goodies for you to try to make yourself this holiday.

The sheer variety of the shapes and colors of pumpkins and squashes make them a delight to carve. However, the type of design will be dictated by the type of fruit you pick. This chart makes it easy for you to choose the best type of pumpkin or squash for the design you wish to create.

Hard flesh (HF)- difficult to hollow out - works best with surface engraving.

Hard skins (HS)- easy to scoop out insides, but outside works best with piercing and drilling.

Soft skins (SS)- easy to carve detailed, intricate designs.

PUMPKINS/SQUASH

Baby Red Hubbard (HF)
Acorn squash (SS)
Fig Leaf Gourd (HS)
Crown of Thorns (HF)
Banana squash (SS)
Halloween Pumpkin (N/A)
Patty Pan squash (HF)
Melonette St. Julien (SS)
Sweet Dumpling Gourd (HF)
Turk's Turban (HF)
White Boar pumpkin (HF)

Let everyone participate in carving a different Halloween face to create a whole array of characters from comical to down-right spooky. Use the squash to give Jack a hat that glows in the dark.

Jack-o'-Lantern

Carving Tools

Kitchen knife
Craft Knife
Lino-cutting tool
Drill
Metal ice-cream scoop
Fine black pen
Water-soluble crayon
Gimlet or other small assorted shaped carving tool
Baby Red Hubbard squash
Small squash
One votive or candle
One small glass container

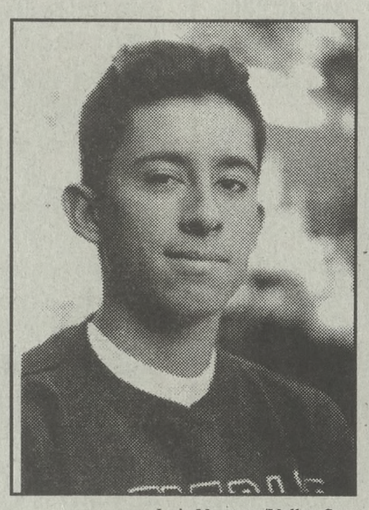
Use the crayon to draw a circle in the diameter of the top of the baby squash.
Use the fine black pen to draw the features on the pumpkin and scrolls on the squash.
Use the kitchen knife to cut out the top of the squash and to cut a circle in the base of the small pumpkin.
Use the ice-cream scoop to scoop out the seeds and flesh, leaving a fi inch thick shell.
Use the craft knife to cut out the nose, eyebrows, space between the teeth, and whites of the pumpkins eyes. Use can also use this knife to cut scrolls into curling slits to make a design in the squash hat.
Use the gimlet to make a hole in the center of each eye.
Use the lino-cutting tool to cut out the mustache.
Place the votive or candle inside the glass container in the center of the pumpkin and light.
Place the squash hat upside down on the pumpkin head.

Dating on the Internet?

Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

"The Internet is not safe, especially for children."

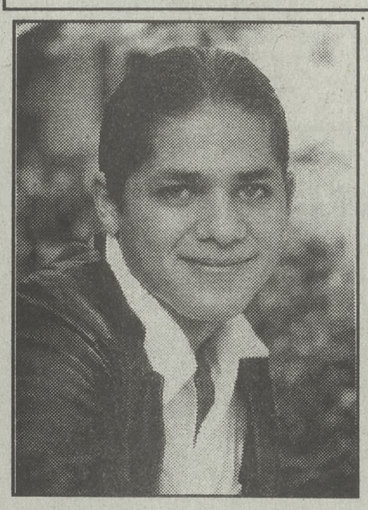
Inga Soyayan



Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

"Well, I've never done it, but it seems like you should meet them in person and not meet them over some computer where you really can't tell who they are."

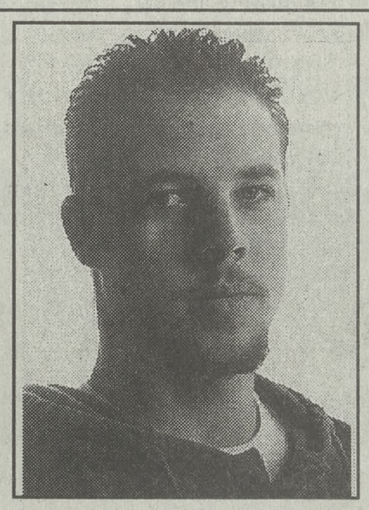
Daniel Aguilera



Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

"It's crazy. What if you're not physically attracted to them? What kind of people are on the Internet? I wouldn't do it."

Anthony Cacho



Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

"I think talking on the Internet is a sign of desperation for some people. They kind of just give up on the human race."

Ryan Johnson

Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

"You would just be judging on who they are instead of what they look like. However, it's scary because you don't know who they are. They could be psycho."

Teresa Chandler

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Editorial:

Campus Police: Naughty or Nice?

Imagine, you are a Valley student and its the end of the day. You worked eight hours, then went to class to listen to a lecture for three hours.

Class ends, you run to your car. Ah, its there. You jump in to start it and... It won't start. You look up to see a police car but you let them leave.

Why? Possibly a preconceived notion that the officers are bad news.

Now who are you going to call? Certainly not the ghost busters.

More than likely, you think of AAA, or some other form of mobile car service. Another problem arises, no phone. Aha, there is a pay phone. You have no money, you are a college student. Now what?

From any pay phone on campus dail #30. It is a direct line to the campus police. They respond to all calls for help. Even when your car won't start.

Most students have a preconceived idea of the campus police, whether its positive or negative.

Some students relate to them as security guards and not police.

Regardless of the opinions most students call the campus police when they need immediate help.

The relationship most people have with any police officers, forms because of a phone call for help.

With all the claims of police brutality and illegal arrests, some views have changed.

Most of the time students and faculty members at Valley express satisfaction and appreciation for the police officers.

Then, there are those few students who feel differently.

One student made a claim that a campus officer used excessive force when arresting him for drug use on campus.

Police Captain Traber investigated and the officer was found not guilty. The officer said he knew he had not violated the student's rights but being accused, and being investigated was part of the job.

The campus police are there for your protection. If it seems like they are harassing you then report it to their captain. At the same time you have to realize they are going to do their job.

Do not confuse them with security guards. The campus police are gun totting officers of the law and they take their job seriously and so should you.

Innocent Until Proven Guilty?

By STEVE BELAND
STAR REPORTER

The Los Angeles Community College District defines sexual harassment as: "Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, visual or physical conduct of a sexual nature, made by someone from or in the workplace or in the educational setting."

Despite such "zero tolerance" policies, sexual harassment has permeated our society.

Sometimes it happens close to home. A Birmingham High School teacher was charged with child annoyance on Oct. 22 after he allegedly made sexually suggestive comments toward two female students. He is accused of offering one student an "A" grade in exchange for oral sex and grabbing another student's arm, leaving a bruise.

I believe that perpetrators of such incidents should receive punishment commensurate to the crime.

However, there are two sides to every story. What if the alleged offender never received due process? What if the alleged offender wasn't allowed to see the charges leveled against them or to present their side of the story? What if the alleged offender actually was chipping golf balls on his lawn at the time of the offense?

Consider the following hypothetical scenario: A student accuses a professor of sexual harassment. The student files a formal complaint with the appropriate campus representative and a copy of the complaint is placed in the professor's personnel file. Without so much as a hearing, the professor's record is damaged, regardless of whether he or she actually committed the alleged offense.

I'm not in any way condoning the behavior of those who are guilty of sexual harassment. However, I believe it's important to listen to both sides of the story. Eyewitness testimony or physical evidence should be presented to corroborate an accuser's story before someone's career is needlessly destroyed.

What if the allegations are untrue? Within the past year, two members of the Dallas Cowboys football team were falsely accused of rape by a woman who later admitted the story was untrue. She recanted the story when confronted with evidence that one of the accused players couldn't have been present at the time and place where the alleged rape occurred.

Although the players were never charged, they were labeled as sexual predators as soon as the story was released by the media.

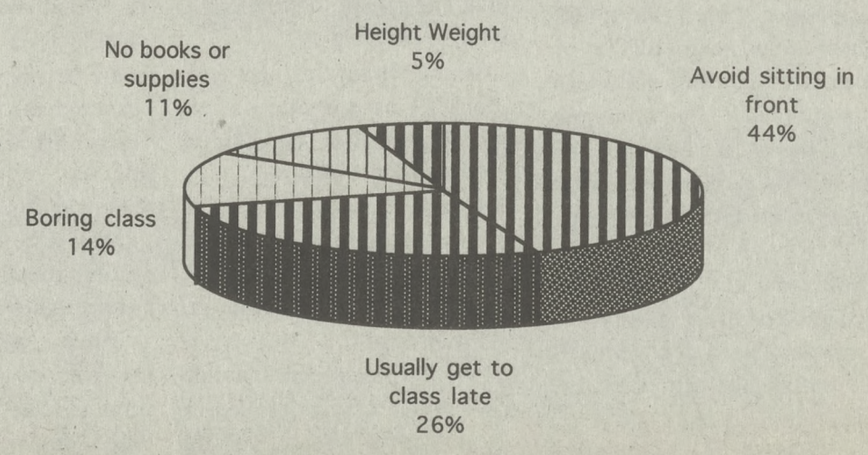
I think the punishment for making such false allegations should be as severe as the punishment for the actual crime.

The malicious destruction of a person's name and reputation is a serious matter.

How does someone clear their name after they have been publicly labeled as a criminal without the benefit of due process?

Whatever happened to the notion of "innocent until proven guilty?" Doesn't the burden of proof fall upon the accuser and not the accused?

The 18th century English novelist Henry Fielding once wrote, "Guilt has very quick ears to an accusation." It would seem those words remain true to this day.


Reasons Why Students Sit in the Back
No books or supplies 11%
Height Weight 5%
Avoid sitting in front 44%
Boring class 14%
Usually get to class late 26%

Back Seat Learners

By REBEKAH FOWLER
STAR REPORTERS

Why do students show up to school just to sit in the back of the class? Is it a form of higher education? After all its a common opinion that students who sit in the back do so to separate themselves from the rest of the class, for whatever reason.

Okay, there are a few acceptable reasons for sitting in the back of the class. Such as its a packed class, you are late, and last but not least, you are in the wrong class. Any other reason is just an excuse.

Some students say they feel comfortable sitting in the back of the class. Are you at school to feel comfortable or to learn? The majority of students come to college to learn. When you spend money to attend college you might as well get your money's worth. For those of you trying to feel comfortable, stay at home its much more relaxing.

In most classes the action happens in the front of the class. The students who participate sit in the first few rows. The middle section of the class is not bad, you can participate and feel a part of the class. The back of the class especially the last row is out of the school zone. It isolates you from the rest of the class. Don't believe me, sit in the back of a class one day. It can be lonely.

Then again, for the students who sit in the back, they have their reasons. Another common answer, from the student survey, was that students like to sit with their friends in the back of the class. Why? To conversate no doubt. Well here is a tip for the little chatter mouth - conversate outside of the classroom.

Other students say they sit in the back of the class because they learn better. Is this possible? Maybe in a packed lecture class where everyone just sits and listens. Or if the classroom is small enough and everyone seems to be sitting in the back any way. In other words, there are exceptions to every rule.

It seems though that the majority of the reasons given for why students sit in the back of the class point back to the student's lack of interest in school? So, why show up to class at all?

College is a different atmosphere from high school. It is self determination and motivation that will get you through college. If you are sitting in the back of the class to avoid participating, then have the courtesy to be quiet.

As adults you are no longer being forced to go to school. It is time and effort that goes for nothing if you don't make it a point to get involved in getting an education.

What's Your Opinion?

The Valley Star would love to receive and if possible, publish your letters. The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations.

Submitted letters should be limited to 250 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist or sexually oriented denigrations. Letters must be signed and include student's ID number.

Letters may be left with the Valley Star at BJ 114 by Friday morning for the following Thursday.

Also, look for our mailboxes attached to three of our yellow news stands, or send E-mail to Wordmker@ aol.com.

Letters

Dear Editor,

This is in response to Leo Smith's Oct. 10 article "Who Asked U About Mascots?" Nobody asked us and even so, we will protest!

One outrageous statement made by Smith was, "When June hits the Valley, cultural sensitivity be damned, give me air-conditioning."

That's a shallow and easy statement to make when it's not your culture that others are insensitive to. Personally, I'd rather not damn cultural sensitivity.

Smith claims misguided activists were the ones to cause radical and unnecessary changes in the way mascots are perceived. The same idiotic comparison could have been made during the Civil Rights movement.

I have listened to the very activists that Smith views as foolish. Personally, I felt there were many other important American Indian issues that needed to be pursued, but I applaud them for sticking to one important issue even if it wasn't a priority on other people's lists.

Smith urged readers to write if they shared his views. I don't agree with him but I still think I should be heard.

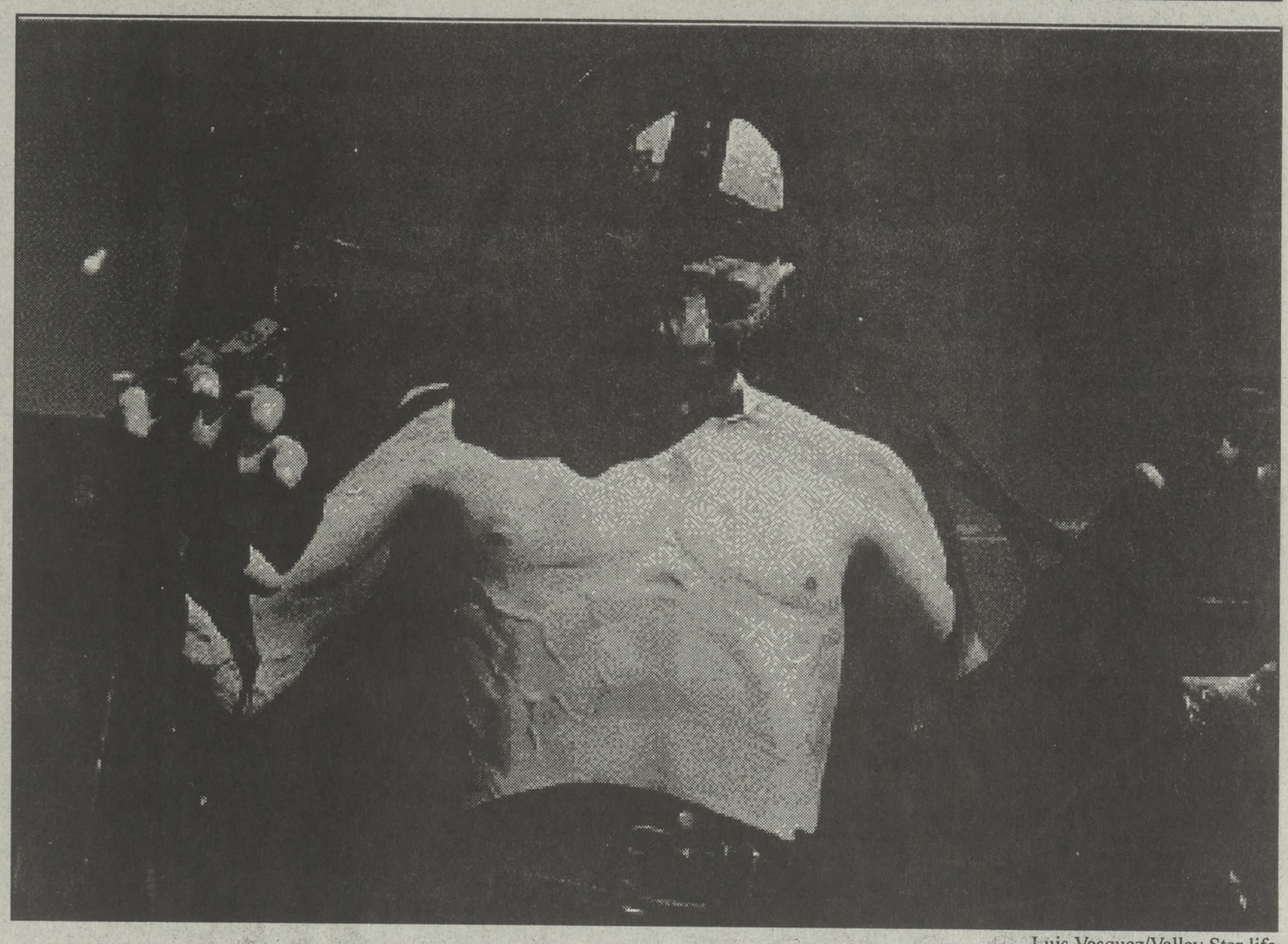
The problem is that Smith's mascot is a fantasy. It's an unrealistic and corrupt way to portray American Indians. Smith may not care that the things he takes pride in cause shame to others, but their views are important.

American Indians have for decades been crying out against the media's negative portrayal of them. We are constantly being attacked by anyone who can pick up a pen and tell us there is no harm intended or done by such symbols or mascots.

How dare you presume to tell me that I have in no way been negatively portrayed or insulted. That a symbol of my ancestors should jump around, hoot, holler, do somersaults and wave a tomahawk around for your entertainment is insulting to me, whether you acknowledge it or not.

Voicing our opinions,
Lirio and George Patton

Tales From Jack's Crypt



A life-like Halloween prop is set up to scare , delight or intrigue visitors at a pumpkin patch in Carson.

Luis Vasquez/Valley Star life

Jack-o'-lanterns, haunted houses, black cats, witches on brooms, ghosts and goblins?
Trick or treat... or real life Halloween horrors from the past?

By ROBIN FEJES
STAR REPORTER

In Hollyweird, the eeriest moments in Halloween film history had to be the shower scene from Hitchcock's classic thriller, "Psycho," when a hand reaches in with a large knife and slashes the victim while she watches, horrified, yet helpless to stop her own demise.

In real life, the scariest moment has to be walking through the "Haunted House," blindfolded, as your led from room to room, not knowing what awaits you. As you walk, your guide forces your hand into something wet and slimy, while your being offered a sampling of another substance. As this moves down your throat, a ghoulish voice over the microphone announces you've just stuck you hand into the cavity of a warm, human skull and felt the brains, while you swallowed a mouthful of live worms.

Fact or fiction lies in the imagination of the beholder and the beholden. In keeping with the Halloween spirit I leave it up to you to decide whether or not you want to believe how this old druidic holiday was brought back to "light," by a lantern named "Jack."

Halloween signifies a time when the dead arise from their graves and flock back to a life-like state to mingle with the living. Jack-o'-lanterns, with their glaring, hollowed out facial features, signify the restless souls of the dead who roam the Earth. In Ireland, before pumpkins were introduced from the New-World, jack-o-lanterns were made from scooped-out turnips, rutabagas, even large potatoes. A candle was then placed inside the head of these vegetables and when lit and set to rest in a dark windowsill cast an eerie glow from within.

The legend of the jack-o'-lantern starts with a drunkard named Jack- a selfish, thieving, sharp-tongued alcoholic who had no intention of paying for his evil ways. One day, he very cleverly talked the devil himself into climbing a tree. Once the devil was far up into the tree limbs, Jack carved a cross in the trunk. The devil, then, could not get down. The cross and the significance of it's meaning, held him jailed in the leafy branches. The devil cursed and threatened Jack, then coaxed and pleaded before they finally reached an agreement.

Jack agreed to release the devil from the tree if the devil, in turn, promised not to send Jack to hell when he died. Drinking, thieving, and being just as cruel and selfish as he always was, Jack lived to a ripe old age and died, unrepentant and fearless about his life after death. He went directly to heaven, where to his amazement, the gate keepers refused him admittance. He had been to stingy and cruel, and drunken besides. He was not fit to pass through the Pearly Gates.

After some confused and very lonely wondering, Jack then made his way down to hell and knocked on the devil's door. The devil reminded Jack of the promise he made and his intent to keep it. Jack was turned away from hell as well. After Jack was refused admittance to both heaven and hell, as the story goes, he was so desolate that the devil himself took pity on him and tossed him a live coal from the eternal fires of hell to light his way. Jack popped the coal inside a turnip he was eating, and used it to see the path of his endless journey. This ghostly light, seen by lonely travelers late at night, often near swamps, is said to be Jack, endlessly searching for a place where he belongs.

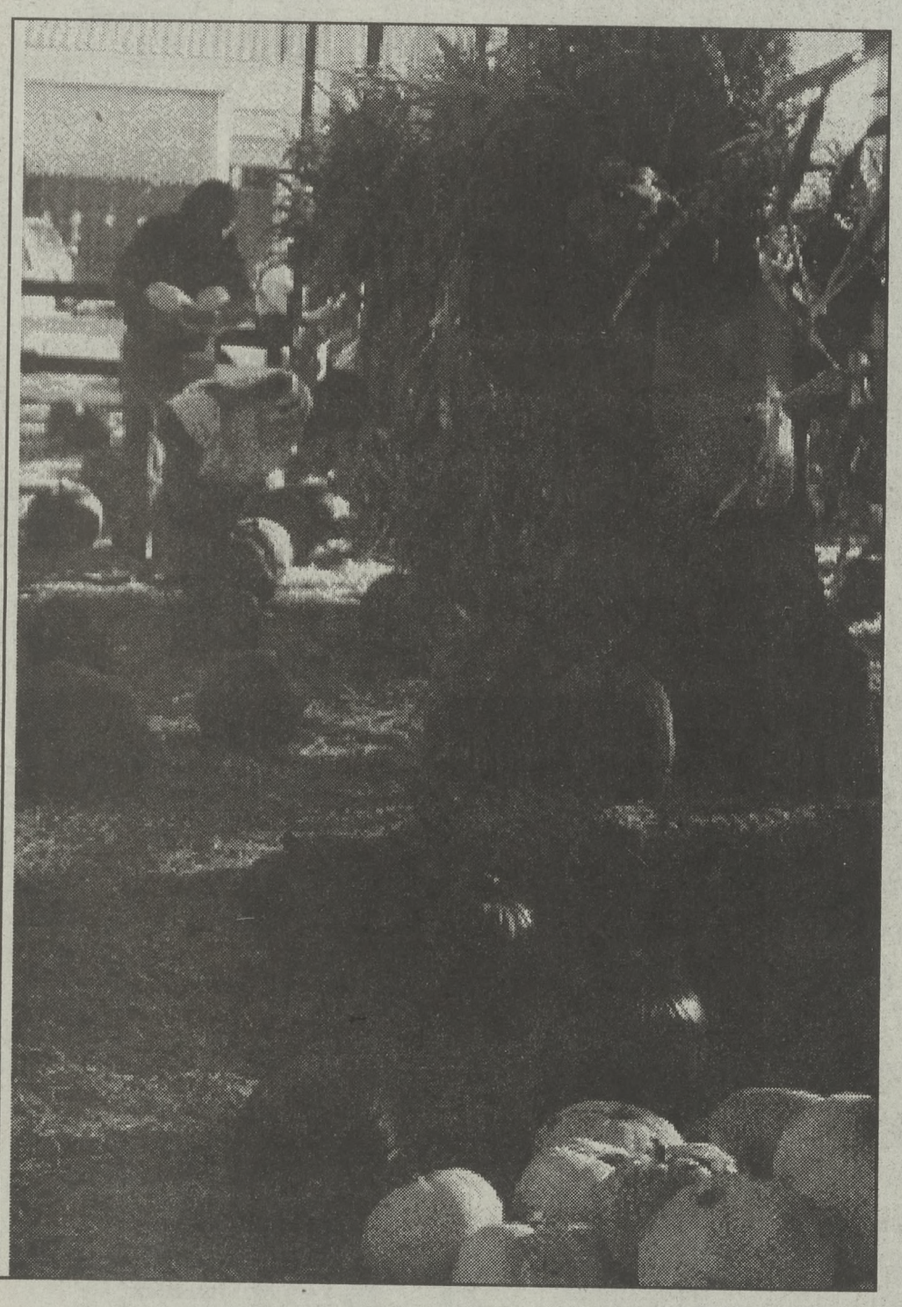
Around the 19th century, when pumpkins became commonplace in Europe-the jack-o'-lantern became inextricably associated with the pumpkin. It's carved out, back lit grin often resembles a human head.

In North America alone, people have been harvesting some strain of pumpkin or other for over 9,000 years. The English naturally called them pompions, using the word they had applied to the gourds of the Old World, 16th century. This is where our word "pumpkin" comes from, though true pumpkins are strictly New World vegetables and were unknown in Europe or Asia before the time of Columbus.

Carving pumpkins-squash is not a new craft. Decorated gourds have been found in Peruvian archaeological sites dating back to 2000BC.

Contrary to legend, the pumpkin is said to have healing properties: a poultice of stewed pumpkin is suppose to relieve inflammation.

Pumpkins are classified as a strain of Cucurbita pepo, along with it's relative, squash. Giant pumpkins are not myth, to date, the largest pumpkin grown has weighed in at over 1,000 pounds.



Luis O. Vasquez/Valley Star

Pumpkin patch at Carson offers a variety of pumpkins, squash and service with a Beary big smile.

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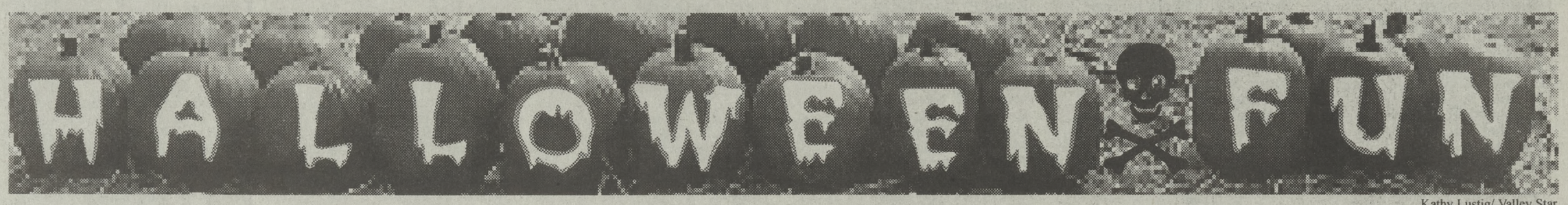
Dean's Reception

Valley College will honor students at the semi-annual Dean's Reception, Wednesday, November 5, at 2:00 p.m. in Monarch Hall. To qualify for this honor, full-time studens: must have completed at least 12 graded units with a GPA of 3.5 in the Spring '97 semester. Part-time students: must have coompleted 6 - 11 units in Spring '97, must have completed 12 0r more cumulative graded units at Valley College with a 3.5 GPA. Students who are being honored are encouraged to attend.

Congratulations

Honor Students



Kathy Lustig/ Valley Star

Halloween: An Ongoing Scare

By NANCY BARAHONA
STAR REPORTER

Halloween, the scariest event of the year, was a tradition started in the fourth century as a religious belief. In the 90s, it is a day of fun and exitement.

All Hallows Eve, better known as Halloween, is a tradition that was brought to America by the Scots and Irish. Its main concern was to remember the souls of those who had recently died.

On Halloween bonfires were lighted and some believed that on this day witches, ghosts and hobgoblins wandered around. Some even believed there were evil spirits that had the power to control men.

Halloween began as a Druid belief, went on to be considered a Christian holy day, then it became a night of reading fortunes from simple objects, such as apples or nuts. Now it is merely a night of wearing costumes and collecting candy.

The Druids were priests of the ancient Celts of Britain. On this eve they held a festival saman for the lord of death. In this festival they called together the wicked souls that had been condemned to inhabit the bodies of animals within the past 12 months.

Druids also used this day as a festival of the waning year, when the sun began a downward course and the grain from the field was ripened. Samhain or "Summer's End," was a feast held for the dying sun.

The Druids celebrated with human sacrifices, which fortold the future by supernatural means and prayer. Later the human sacrifices were replaced by soul cakes-any sort of offering, such as cakes, coins or apples.

> In this century, we practice "trick or treating." Adults, and mostly children dress up in costumes and go door-to-door to collect candy.

In the fourth century, Druids used this day as a pagan vigil for the god of light to All Hallows, the mass for Christian saints.

At about the 10th century, the Druids celebrated a death feast on Halloween that became known as All Souls' Day, the day of the prayer for the souls that have died. It is now celebrated on Nov. 2 to honor the souls of those who have died within the past year.

During the 19th century the Irish began to believe the "little people" or fairies played pranks on Halloween. They had the belief that boys or young men were led to carry out practical jokes on this night.

In this century, we practice "trick or treating." Adults, and mostly children dress up in costumes and go door-to-door to collect candy. Sometimes, if there is no one home or if they are rude and do not give out a treat, then the homeowners are punished by a mild but destructive trick.

Courtesy of Knott's Scary Farm

Monsters, ghouls and goblins have been giving the world a day of horror since the fourth century.

During medieval times in Europe, it was believed that elves, fairies and witches took the shape of cats and were able to fly. Bonfires were lit to guard against these spirits. This belief was carried on to Scotland and Ireland.

Halloween is also a day for games and rituals such as apple bobbing, apple paring and nut roasting.

Apple bobbing is a game in which people attempt to get an apple that is floating in the water with their teeth.

Omens such as apple parings were carried out to determine marriage. A rhyme is said and a person cuts the edge off a red apple and the apple is thrown over the shoulders in hopes to get their sweetheart's initial on the ground to read.

Another ritual is "Nutcrack Night," in which boys and girls place nuts side by side in a dying fire, if the nuts flew apart, a disaster would follow, if they burned brightly side by side, a peaceful marriage was predicted.

Until recent years in Scotland and Wales, fires were lit and as many small stones as there were people were placed around it. The next morning a search was made and if any stones were displaced or missing, it was a sign that the person represented would die within 12 months.

Trick or Treaters Can Run, But They Can't Hide

■ **Theme park's monsters, ghosts, gobblins, beasts and creatures host trick or treatres on Oct. 31 for a night of fun, exitement and terror.**

By JULIO CORTEZ
STAR REPORTER

Quick! Dracula, Freddy, Jack and Frank are after us. Where should we go? We've got to hide!

No matter where people go on Halloween, they will be haunted by monsters, ghouls and goblins.

To celebrate this day of horror, people have been going to Knott's Scary Farm, Magic Mountain's "Fright Nights," Universal Studio's "Horror Nights," the Hollywood Boulevard streetfest, the Queen Mary's "Shipwreck" and haunted houses throughout the Southland.

Oct. 31 will not be just one more Halloween event for Knott's Berry Farm. The theme park reaches its "Shiver Anniversary."

For the last 25 years, Knott's has been the host for what reviewers call the "world's biggest Halloween party."

Knott's anniversary offerings include 11 terrifying walk- or ride-through attractions, seven live stage shows, two "scare zones," and more than 1,000 professionally made-up and costumed monsters, ghouls and other hideous beasts lurking in the fog to scare unsuspecting guests.

"Fright Nights" at Magic Mountain is also living up to its name. As soon as the sun goes down, beasts come to life to haunt those who happen to walk through their territories. Magic Mountain offers 10 stage shows and a maze through a haunted house filled with creatures behaving badly and hiding behind every corner to scare guests.

Visitors (back) run away from creatures at the world's biggest Halloween party at Knott's Scary Farm.

Courtesy of Knott's Scary Farm

Courtesy of Six Flags Magic Mountain

The Creepy Crawly Pet Show is one of many Frigh Fest live stage shows at Six Flags Magic Mountain.

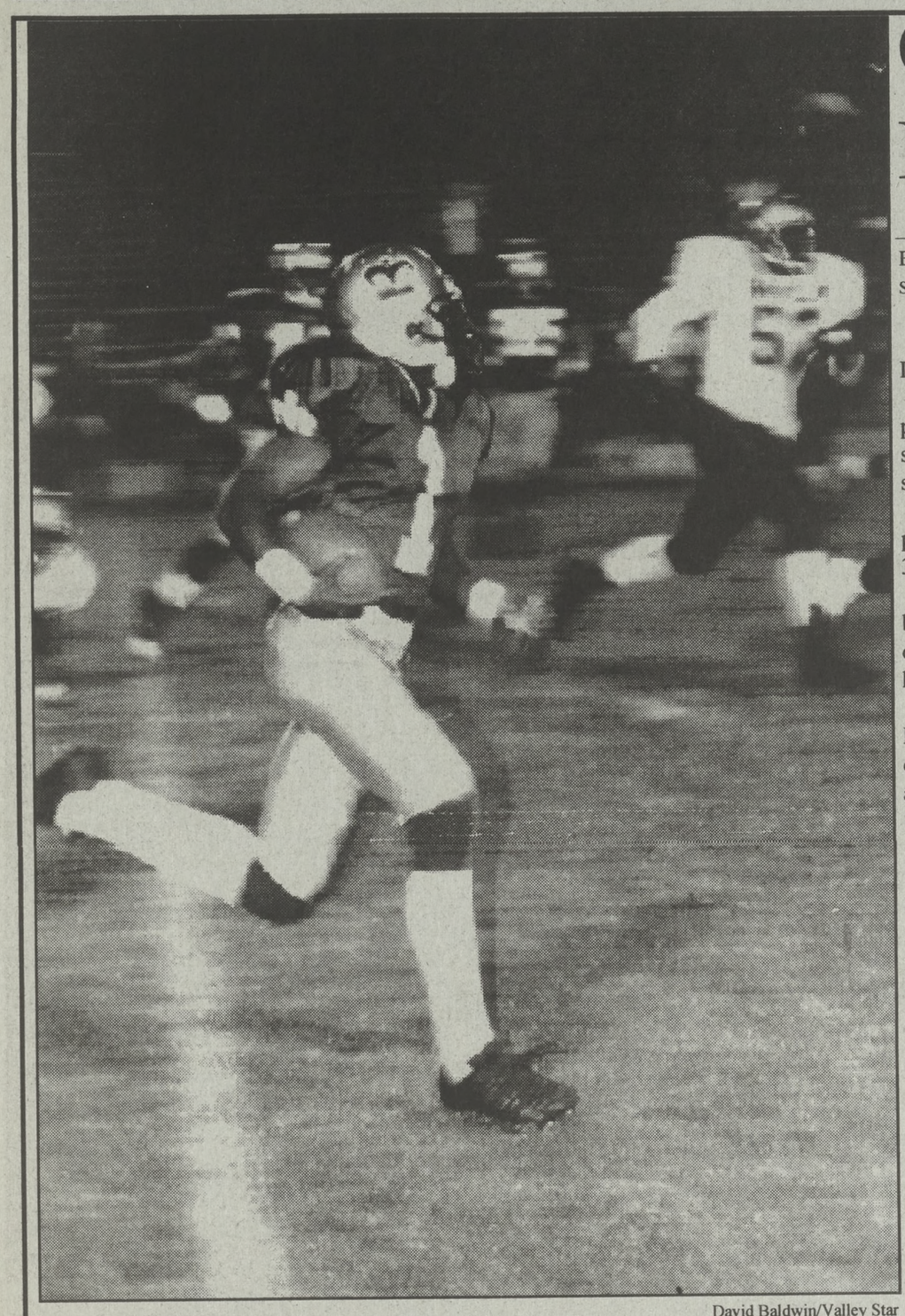
The film industry has increased Halloween fun by making movies about monsters and beasts. Horror movie characters will be around everywhere that night, appropriately enough on Hollywood Boulevard. The traffic will stop and the public will be allowed to wander around creatures.

Who else can be more excited about Halloween than Universal Studios? Along with their scary movies and characters, they are proud to present "Horror Nights." There are seven mazes throughout the park, which also features live shows and a variety of blockbuster monsters wandering through the streets.

The Queen Mary scares visitors with three horrifying mazes which have different types of scary creatures which can't wait to get their hands on guests throughout the ship.

Valley College will host trick or treaters with the first annual "Halloween family fun festival" which will include an educational play area for kids, carnival games, costume contests and who can forget the haunted house?

This day of fun will be hosted by the Phi Theta Kappa- Betta Delta Sigma Chapter. The event, which will be on from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., will be followed by a dance at Campus Center Monarch Hall from 10 p.m to 2 a.m.



David Baldwin/Valley Star

Wide receiver Leaford Hackett takes off across the field withno defenders around him in Saturday's game against West L.A.

Oilers Slick Past Monarchs

By BEN ALTER
STAR REPORTER

On Saturday night, the Monarch's lost to the West L.A. 29-21.

The Oiler's starting quarterback Paul Ryan, who played third string quarterback last year for Valley, squared off against Tom Racius, who played second string quarterback last year for Valley.

Ryan came to Valley with something to prove and proved it as he completed 24 passes for 322 yards and 3 touchdowns.

Racius, trying to prove that he was deserving of his backup job last year, completed 17 passes for 188 and one touchdown. It wasn't the game that he might have hoped for.

But Ryan was the quarterback that came out on top. Racius proved his abilities last week when he completed 27 passes for 425 yards and five touchdowns against Pierce, that performance caused the Western States Conference to select him as Conference Player of the Week.

The Monarchs put up a fight in the second quarter when they scored all 21 of their points.

The last of those points was put on the board when the Monarchs ran a halfback option and Leaford Hackett threw a 59-yard pass to Randall Lane.

Some of the stand out performances for Valley came from Hackett who caught seven passes for 61 yards and one touchdown. Also Lane who caught six passes for 138 yards and one touchdown.

The standout performance in the running department came from Antwane Smith, who carried the ball 19 times for 152 yards and one touchdown.

Donte Morgan excelled for the defense as he made six unassisted tackles, one assisted tackle, recovered a fumble and knocked down two passes.

Despite these standout performances, the Monarchs dropped to 4-2, but will try to bring their record up to 5-2 on Saturday, as they face off against L.A. Harbor at Monarch Stadium.

OPINION

Community College vs. University

By BEN ALTER
STAR REPORTER

I've heard a lot of people make comments about the stupid decision of great athletes choosing to go community colleges instead of a university.

All I can say is that they are wrong. In most cases it isn't a choice.

You see someone who is a great athlete in community college, but it may not have been so true in high school.

That athlete could've been an average athlete in high school, or might not have fit in to their high school's team strategy.

So maybe, because of that they didn't perform up to their full potential and didn't get a scholarship. Without a scholarship, they would have to try out as a walk-on.

How many walk-ons do you think get playing time or even make the team? I'll tell you, if they're lucky maybe one in a thousand.

So it's smarter for them to go to a community college and get some playing time. Once they get that playing time, they can showcase their talents and prove that they deserve to get playing time at a university.

Another situation where it is smart to opt for community college is not unlike the situation of one of the players on the Monarch Football team. That player is wide-receiver Leaford Hackett.

Hackett is not your average sized wide receiver at only 5'9" tall and 168 lbs. On top of his lack of size, in high school he played at Poly High. Poly's football team wasn't exactly a top team, which kept Hackett from getting the exposure needed to get a scholarship offer.

So he choose to go to Valley and prove himself. What has he done to prove himself?

Let me tell you. This season, Hackett has caught 40 passes for 623 yards and four touchdowns. On top of that, last week against West L.A. he threw a 59-yard pass to Randall Lane for a touchdown. In his two years at Valley, Hackett has caught 68 passes placing him seventh on the Valley all-time reception list.

So you tell me. Is it stupid for a great athlete to go to community college instead of a university.

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Valley's First Hip-Hop Dance Squad

By BEN ALTER
STAR REPORTER

This year marks a first for Valley College, as they announced their first ever hip-hop dance squad.

The squad is made up of five members: Maritza Fernandez, Gabriela Gonzalez, Amber Jefferson, Corinne Abramowitz and Ilbra Yacoob.

The squad came into being when some of the girls decided they wanted a dance squad. They spoke to some of their friends and made a proposal to Athletic Director Chuck Ferraro.

Jefferson said that Ferraro liked the idea, thought it would be good for school spirit and approved it.

The prior experience of the members come mostly from a cheerleading, drill team and a love for dancing. The only dance training that they have is some ballet, jazz and tap lessons that some of the girls took when they were young girls.

The members said that the squad has brought them together as friends. Now they hang out and do things other than practice.

It's hard to believe that they have time to hang out together outside of practice and classes, considering they practice everyday of the week, for three ours a day.

The other member of the group is Shane Sparks. Sparks doesn't perform with the group, but works behind the scenes as the squad's choreographer.

The members said that they are hoping that this is the start of exciting careers in dancing, in music videos or as a warm up group for concerts.

They also hope to get respect. They want to get respect for taking the initiative to start this group.

They also said that the group has helped them, because females generally don't get along together and they proved that girls could get along.

The squad will be having tryouts for the basketball season, but they have not set on a date for the tryouts.

David Baldwin/Valley Star

Valley College's Hip Hop Dance Squad (left to right): Corinne Abramowitz, Gabriela Gonzalez, Amber Jefferson, Maritza Hernandez and Ilbra Yacoob.

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Student Volunteering:

Youth Center Offers Escape from Trouble

By DEEANNE McCLAIN
STAR REPORTER

When Valley College student, Violet Rodriguez arrives at the one-year-old Reseda Police Activity League Supporters Youth Center she walks into a large well lit facility that looks like a gym and an arcade mixed together.

"It's really an incredible place," said Rodriguez, an Administration of Justice major. "The whole community has gotten behind the center and the kids are amazing."

PALS is a Los Angeles Police Department organization that has several youth centers in Los Angeles County. Reseda PALS Youth Center however, is privately funded.

The community has supported the center with donations like a boxing ring from the Amateur Athletic Foundation, three years rent paid by the Irmas Foundation and a $10,000 donation toward the computer room from West Valley Councilwoman Laura Chick. The kids got involved as well and earned money for a pool table by selling candy.

They offer kick boxing, boxing, karate, fishing trips, arts and crafts all day Saturday, roller hockey and basketball just to name a few.

While there, Rodriguez often runs into Neely Suter, the director of the PALS youth center or a person who Rodriguez says is probably their oldest volunteer, Ann Kinzle who is the current West Valley PALS president.

"She's a little rough around the edges," Rodriguez said, "But she's exactly what the kids need. She doesn't take any flack."

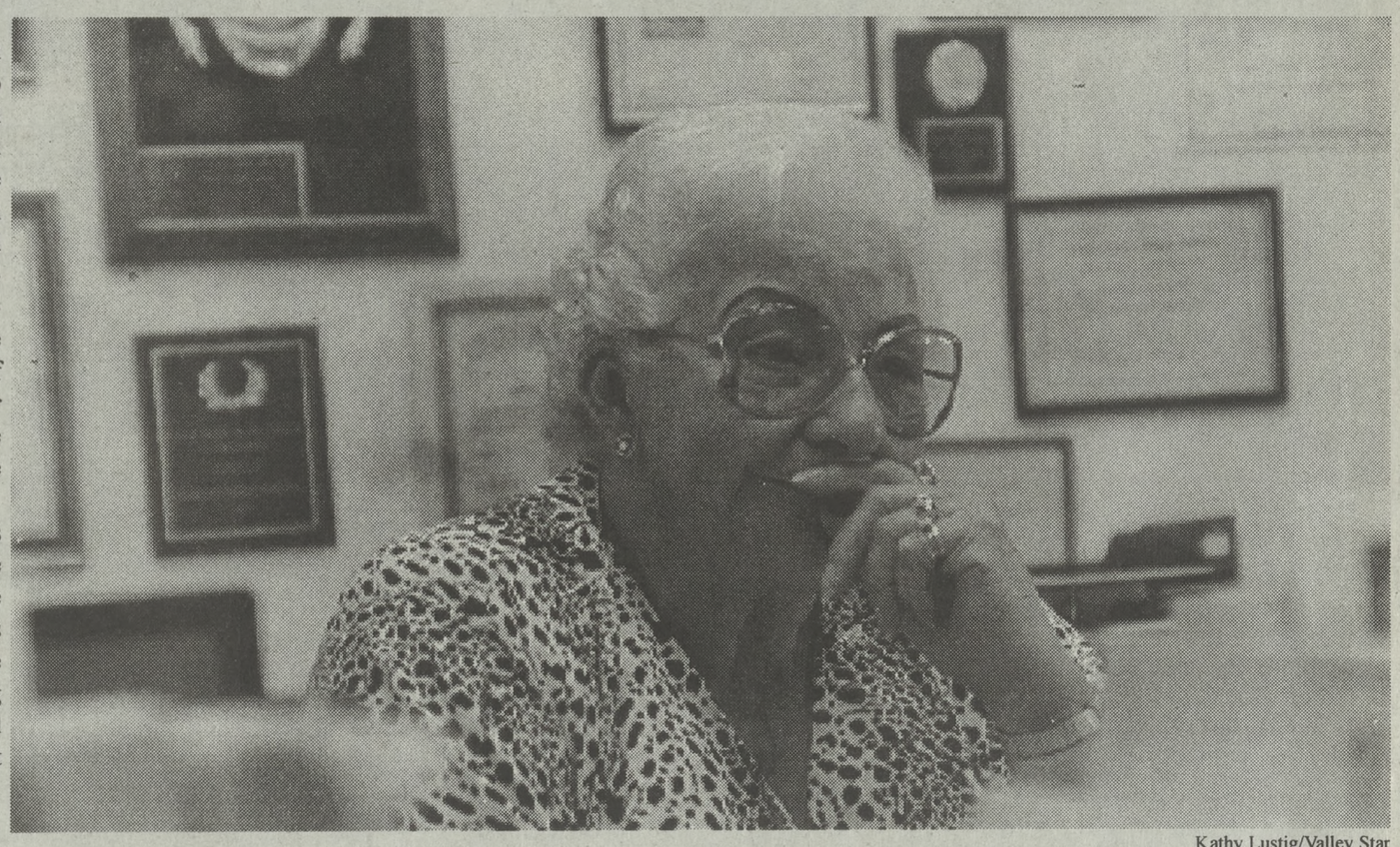
Kinzle, 70, says she is proud to volunteer at PALS and she is proud of her tough demeanor. She also feels that it is very fulfilling to see these high-risk kids blossom before your eyes and see how something as simple as making crafts can make a difference.

"You should see the 16 and 17-year-olds sitting here making little painted pumpkins all day," Kinzle said, "It's unbelievable how much they love this place."

PALS is very structured and has incentives to keep the kids working toward positive choices and good behavior. Some of the incentives include time in the computer room for good grades or helping with various duties around the center. Straight A's earn the kids expensive boxes of baseball cards from Officer John Mann, who runs the LAPD Community Service Center next door.

Kinzle says everyone is very involved and the police presence makes everyone more comfortable. She says the staff and volunteers are strict with the kids, offering the kind of discipline and consistency they don't get at home.

"We're not overbearing. We just stress respect for everybody. You wish their parents were more strict at home though. A lot of the boys don't have respect for the girls, but they're learning. They're learning." Kinzle said.



Kathy Lustig/Valley Star

Ann Kinzle, West Valley Police Activity League Supporters president, is proud of her tough demeanor and her volunteer work at PALS.

About 25 to 50 kids go to West Valley PALS after school and on Saturdays, with a total of 600 signed up at the center, and there are at least 10 regular volunteers. There are also the more challenging kids from the LAPD run Jeopardy Program who intermingle with the PALS kids, which is run out of the Community Service Center which serves as a LAPD sub-station.

Officer Carl Oschmann works with the Jeopardy kids, who have usually already been in some kind of trouble, getting involved with their parents and teachers. The Jeopardy kids and PALS kids go on field trips together and share the facility. One cannot tell the kids apart. Oschmann says they all need someone to connect to.

Rodriguez says when she volunteers she tries to get to know the kids, but says it is slow-going.

"You can tell the kids don't want to trust you, but deep inside they want to be able to." Rodriguez said.

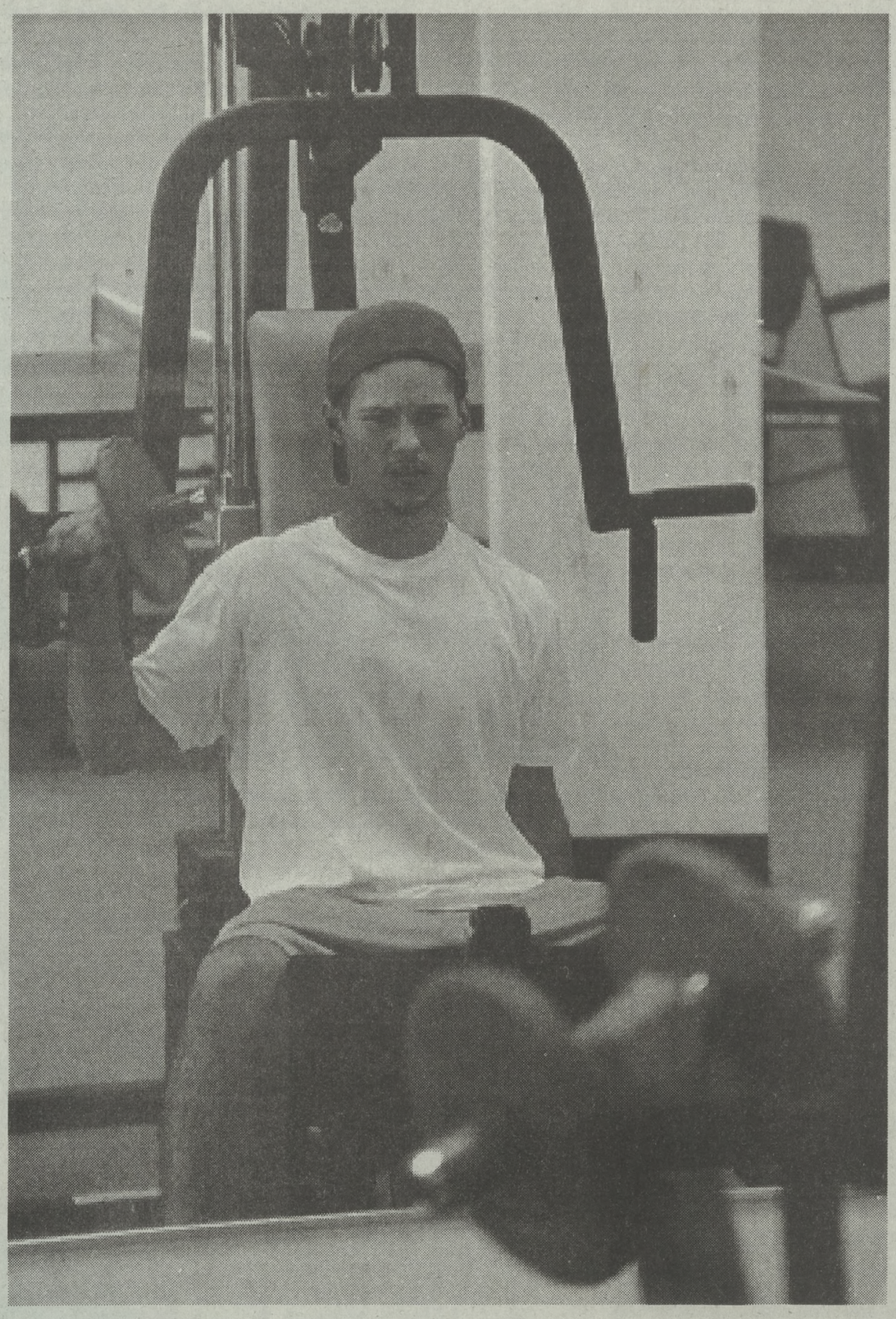
She says the kids obviously love it there, if just to have a place to go. She feels it is a second home to them and in some cases better than being home. Daniel Martinez, 17, agrees.

"I think it's a good idea for kids to get involved and stuff. I'd probably just be sitting at home if I wasn't here. It keeps kids from doing bad things when they're bored, like drugs or gangs and stuff.Ó He said. ÒI like to box here. It keeps me from taking out my aggressions in other ways. It sure is better than watching TV."

At the end of her day, Rodriguez feels like she's done something to help her community and to help her become a better police officer.

"I think PALS is doing something incredible for these kids," Rodriguez said, "For the kids, it's a gift."

Those interested in volunteering at PALS Youth Center can call Neely Suter at (818) 342-5725.



Kathy Lustig/Valley Star

NO PAIN. NO GAIN. About 600 children go to the West Valley PALS after school and on Saturday.

Police Radio Stolen At Game

By STEVE BELAND
STAR REPORTER

A police radio was stolen shortly after the homecoming football game against Pierce Oct. 18.

Officer Michael Habicht was summoned to the football field after receiving a disturbing the peace call. Habicht found two females fighting by parking lot E near the ticket booth on the home side of the field, he said.

Habicht radioed for assistance and began pulling the women apart.

While he was attempting to restrain one of the women, his radio fell to the ground, he said.

Approximately 30 or 40 minutes later, after the fight had been broken up and the scene had cleared, Habicht searched for the radio but was unable to find it, he said.

The missing radio is a black, hand-held Motorola police model.

If someone returns the radio to the campus police, they won't be arrested or considered a suspect, police said.

However, if someone is caught on campus with the radio, they will be arrested, Habicht said.

Officer Habicht is offering a reward for the return of the radio.

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